

REMARKS

Allowed Claims

At page 3 of the Detailed Action the Examiner has allowed claims 5 and 7. Applicants thank the Examiner for the determination of allowance.

Addition of Claim 8

Applicants hereby add new claim 8 to the application. Support for the addition of the claim may be found at page 1, lines 1 – 22; page 3, lines 5 – 6; page 3, line 31 – page 4, line 5; page 5, lines 24 – 26; in the Figures; and elsewhere throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added by the addition of the claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is immediately allowable over the art of record. None of the cited references discloses or suggests, for example, an inflatable support comprising at least two sets of alternately-inflatable cells extending transversely across a center of a width of the support, each cell having within each of its ends at least one internal cell, each at least one internal cell at a higher pressure than the transverse cell and having a lower height than the transverse cell.

Applicants respectfully request consideration and immediate allowance of the claim.

The Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

At pages 2 - 3 of the Detailed Action the Examiner has restated his rejection of Claims 1 – 4 and 6 under 35 USC § 102(b) as assertedly anticipated by Liu, US patent 5,774,917. Applicants respectfully continue to traverse.

Neither Liu nor any of the other cited references discloses or suggests an inflatable support comprising at least one inflatable transverse cell extending

transversely of the support, each at least one transverse cell having outermost opposite ends and within each said outermost opposite end at least one internal cell. Liu discloses two sets of cells (left and right cells 11 and 12), disposed side by side in parallel along a longitudinal axis of the mattress, such that each transverse portion of the mattress is made up of a pair of cells separated by a central diaphragm 10, one cell belonging to each of the parallel sets 11 and 12. Each cell in Liu comprises only one outermost end, and, within that outermost end, a single internal cell. Thus each cell in Liu comprises a single internal cell at a single end of the transverse cell.

This is different from Applicants' cells. The Liu mattress is for turning patients over by deflating one of the sets 11 or 12, so that an entire side of the support is deflated, whereas due to its claimed configuration Applicant's mattress is useful, for example, for relieving pressure and preventing bed sores and similar problems by alternately inflating and deflating, so that a patient is subjected to a sort of massaging action across the width of the support, without either side of the support being fully or uniformly deflated and without the patient being rotated or moved to one side of the mattress. See, for example, page 1, lines 1 – 22; page 3, lines 5 –6; page 3, line 31 – page 4, line 5; page 5, lines 24 – 26; the Figures; and elsewhere throughout the specification.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of the claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that they have fully responded to the Examiner's concerns and that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and immediate allowance of the claims.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in any fee required for this response to Deposit Account No. 02-4270.

Applicant requests that any questions concerning this matter be directed to the undersigned at (212) 895-2906.

I certify that this paper, together with any documents referred to as attached or enclosed, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 6 November 2003



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